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C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 000568

SIPDIS

OFFICIAL INFORMAL

FOR SA/INS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/31/14

TAGS: [AMGT](#) [CE](#) [MV](#) [LTTE](#)

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL INFORMAL NUMBER 051 (03/31/04)

Classified by DCM James F. Entwistle for reasons 1.5 (b) and (d).

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TENSIONS IN BATTICALOA

1. (SBU) FYI. Just want to flag that tensions between the main LTTE and rebel commander Karuna in Batticaloa District in the east are rising. As you know, a TNA candidate and a relative were gunned down on March 30, probably by a LTTE hit squad (the LTTE, for its part, has denied involvement). Various contacts in Batticaloa have told us that they are under direct threat from either LTTE thugs or Karuna thugs as the case may be. There are also reports that Karuna is putting pressure on all "Jaffna" Tamils to leave Batticaloa or else. There are also reports of tensions along the Trincomalee - Batticaloa border near the area of Verugal. In this area, LTTE forces (who have apparently consolidated their control of Trincomalee) and Karuna's men have been eyeballing each other across a stream for some time. We here that increased forces may have gathered in the area of late. There had been much talk that the LTTE would wait until after the April 2 election before moving against Karuna in some way. It appears that the pieces are being put together for something. Given all the reports and rumors, Batticaloa is reportedly very much on edge (no surprise there). Father Miller, an Amciti priest who is based in Batticaloa, told us the area was "quiet but very tense," as of late today. (POL)

APRIL 2 ELECTION

2. (C) FYI. We are sending out a comprehensive message on the policy implications of possible post-election scenarios tonight. We plan to do a snapshot of the situation on the eve of the election tomorrow, April 1. By the way, we expect the election results to pretty much dribble in, but by mid-day Saturday, April 3, we should have some indication on which way the wind is blowing. We'll keep Department regularly informed throughout the weekend, of course. (POL)

CODEL DREIER

3. (SBU) We'll be sending another e-mail on the other system in a few minutes. We met this afternoon and we seem to be in pretty good shape. The one (big) piece missing is whether CBK will receive the CODEL but there's no point in pushing the President's office on that again until after election weekend. The airfield question has been resolved (in our favor). (DCM)

MPP

4. (SBU) We are looking over State 68150 which provides Department suggestions for our MPP. We'll have our views formulated by the middle of next week. We're a bit confused about process. The MPP database we put our original stuff into is now empty and what appear to be final MPPs are posted on the same site. By what means do we send in our reaction to Department suggestions? (DCM)

LUNSTEAD